

floor than Members might have thought. Had we simply been considering the merits of this resolution, the commemoration for one of the great blows for freedom and against bigotry in America, it would have been easy; but there were a lot of complicating factors. Members should know it was the diligence, the persistence, occasionally annoying, of the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SYNDER) that got this bill to the floor. I am happy that we are passing this today commemorating this great event, and I am also happy that it is not a subject I will have to discuss with the gentleman from Arkansas for the next few months, it having occupied a great deal of my time previously. He deserves a great deal of credit for his diligence.

I would just add, as the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and I remember as contemporaries, I want to say a word about social change. The people who integrated Central High School and the people who supported them, the leaders of the NAACP and the black community in Little Rock and in Arkansas, those who pressed a somewhat hesitant administration in Washington, DC to fully support them, they were not the moderates and centrists of their day. Some thought they were pushing too hard for their rights. Some thought they were being too obtrusive. We are very grateful that they were. I hope people will study this event, and the history that will come in part from this bill, that will be financed in part from this bill, and we hope from additional appropriations, will be something people will pay attention to so they will understand both the depths of the problem that America confronted and the kind of moral and mental and physical courage that it took to dismantle it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD an exchange of correspondence between the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Ways and Means.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, June 24, 2005.

Hon. WILLIAM M. THOMAS,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Longworth House
Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I am writing concerning H.R. 358, the "Little Rock Central High School Desegregation 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act," which will be scheduled for floor consideration in the near future.

I acknowledge your committee's jurisdictional interest in this bill and request your cooperation in moving the bill to the House floor expeditiously. I agree that your decision to forego further action on this bill will not prejudice the Committee on Ways and Means with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation. I would support your request for conferees on those provisions within your jurisdiction

should this bill be the subject of a House-Senate conference.

I will include a copy of this letter and your response in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD when this bill is considered by the House. Thank you again for your assistance.

Yours truly,

MICHAEL G. OXLEY,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, June 24, 2005.

Hon. MICHAEL G. OXLEY,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Rayburn House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN OXLEY: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 358, the "Little Rock Central High School Desegregation 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act," which was reported to the House by the Committee on Financial Services on June 17, 2005.

As you noted, the Committee on Ways and Means maintains jurisdiction over matters that concern raising revenue. H.R. 358 contains a provision that establishes a surcharge for the sale of commemorative coins that are minted under the bill, and thus falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. However, in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this bill or similar legislation.

I appreciate and agree to your offer to include this exchange of letters on this matter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, the events of the last few weeks, culminating in the conviction of an 80-year-old Klansman in the infamous killing of three civil rights workers during 1964's "Freedom Summer," serve as a good reminder that this country has come a long distance in just a few short decades.

It is hard, from today's vantage point, to remember a time—a time when some of today's Members had not yet been born—when schools were segregated, when bathrooms were separate, when "back of the bus" was a place where some had to ride whether they liked it or not.

Of course, tolerance is a job that requires constant attention and improvement, but we should not lose sight of the good progress we have made. And so today, Mr. Speaker, consideration of legislation to commemorate the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School is timely, or perhaps even overdue. Regardless, it is worthwhile for us to think for a minute of the courage of nine African-American youngsters as they stood on the steps of that school. And it is important for us to think of the courage of the idealistic youngsters, white and black, who powered the civil rights movement throughout the 1950s and early 1960s.

The legislation we consider today will go a long way to preserving an historic symbol of that desegregation fight. Surcharges on the sale of as many as half a million commemorative silver dollars will pay for preservation programs, and education programs at the site of the first important test of the Supreme Court's landmark desegregation ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Mr. Speaker, as a testament to the importance of this legislation, it is supported broadly and on a bipartisan basis by 321 Members. I urge its immediate passage.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here today to be in support of the Little Rock Central High School Desegregation 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act. I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman VIC SNYDER, for introducing this important piece of legislation.

In 1957, Little Rock Central High School was the site of the first major national test for the implementation of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* of Topeka decision and became the international symbol of the end of racially segregated public schools.

The desegregation of Little Rock Central High by nine African American students was influential to the Civil Rights Movement, and recognized by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as such a significant event in the struggle for civil rights that in May 1958, he attended the graduation of the first African American from Little Rock Central High School. Moreover, it changed American history by providing an example on which to build greater equality, and ultimately a better America.

H.R. 358, the Little Rock Central High School Desegregation 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act, will bring national and international attention to the lasting legacy of this important event by creating a commemorative coin for 2007, in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School. I am proud to be here today to support this bill and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RADANOVICH). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 358, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MILITARY PERSONNEL FINANCIAL SERVICES PROTECTION ACT

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 458) to prevent the sale of abusive insurance and investment products to military personnel, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 458

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Military Personnel Financial Services Protection Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—INSURANCE AND INVESTMENT PRODUCTS

Sec. 101. Congressional findings.